

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating water containing an organic matter and a nitrogen compound, comprising:

a first treatment step of immersing at least a pair of electrodes at least partially in the water to treat the same by an electrochemical technique ~~to decompose organic matter in the water~~; and

a second treatment step of biochemically treating the water after completion of the first treatment step,

wherein the second treatment step uses a microbe to reduce nitrate nitrogen or nitrite nitrogen in the water to nitrogen gas at least under anoxic conditions.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for treating water containing organic matter and a nitrogen compound, comprising:

a first treatment step of adding electrolytic water in which hypohalogenous acid, ozone or active oxygen is generated by an electrochemical technique, or adding a hypohalogenous acid of a drug to the water ~~by an electrochemical technique to decompose organic matter in the water~~; and

a second treatment step of biochemically treating the water after completion of the first treatment step.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for treating water containing organic matter and a nitrogen compound, comprising:

a first treatment step of adding electrolytic water in which hypohalogenous acid, ozone or active oxygen is generated by an electrochemical technique, or adding a hypohalogenous acid of a drug to the water ~~by an electrochemical technique to decompose organic matter in the water~~, and immersing at least a pair of electrodes at least partially in the water to treat the same by an electrochemical technique; and

a second treatment step of biochemically treating the water after completion of the first treatment step.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to one of claims ~~[[1]]~~ 2 to 3, wherein the second treatment step uses a microbe to reduce nitrate nitrogen or nitrite nitrogen in the water to nitrogen gas at least under anoxic conditions.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the second treatment step uses granular sludge.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the second treatment step uses a microbe carried by a carrier.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to one of claims 1 to 3, wherein BOD concentration of the organic matter in the water treated in the second treatment step is set larger by 2.8 or more than concentration of the nitrate nitrogen therein.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to one of claims 1 to 3,

wherein after completion of the second treatment step, a COD/BOD treatment step is carried out to reduce COD and BOD of a residual organic matter in the water.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to one of claims 1 to 3, wherein each electrode used in the first treatment step is an insoluble conductive material capable of generating hypohalogenous acid, ozone or active oxygen.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 2, wherein a noble metal or a conductive material coated with a noble metal is used as one of the electrodes which constitutes at least an anode.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the conductive material coated with the noble metal is coated by plating of the noble metal.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein a VIII group of a periodic table or a conductive material containing a VIII group, alternatively a conductive material coated with the same group or a conductive material containing the same group is used as one of the electrodes which constitutes a cathode.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to one of claims 1 to 3, wherein in the first treatment step a polarity of each of the electrodes is switched to treat the nitrogen compound in the water by an electrochemical technique.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to one of claims 1 to 3,  
wherein before execution of the second treatment step after execution of the first  
treatment step, an available chlorine removal treatment step is carried out to remove an available  
chlorine component from the water.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to one of claims 1 to 3,  
wherein a third treatment step is carried out to filter the water at a stage before the first  
treatment stage, or between the first treatment step and the second treatment step.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to one of claims 1 to 3,  
wherein the water is organic waste water.